

“Each time a [hu]man stands up for an ideal, or acts to improve the lot of others, or strikes out against injustice, [they] send forth a tiny ripple of hope, and crossing each other from a million different centers of energy and daring those ripples build a current which can sweep down the mightiest walls of oppression and resistance.”

Robert F. Kennedy, 1966

Together, we are experiencing a dizzying pace of change as society become globally connected economically, in access to knowledge, and a shared impact upon the planet, as well as in our failures to provide the structures to achieve the rarest and highest ideals of humanity. More than an individual act of courage, a ripple of hope can be rooted in the heart of community, a public space to bring together the best collective actions and moments. Such a public space can not only provide the setting for future endeavors to be imagined, but can be another light for how we can design with nature today, to provide an opportunity for future generations.

Creating a signature icon for a city is a brief moment meant to endure for conceivable time. It is both a moment of courage in time, and an enduring aspiration. Together, a ripple of light. As an icon for San Jose, a ripple of light is envisioned as a new public space, a next step in applying the technology of Silicon Valley towards the ongoing development of communities to improve the issues of the 21st Century: equal opportunity to quality of life for every individual, and living sustainably with the planet – meeting environmental justice and sustainability.

Specifically, the design, scale, and program (above and within) of this proposal are meant to flexible, in order to promote an inclusive engagement process with the local community to build consensus for progress, and empower local ownership, but connecting a shared reliance upon the public spaces that increase access to dignity in urban life. As an urban Confluence is the meeting of nature and humanity, our future presence in this space must repair past mistakes, and ensure a place for those seeking to change the world for the better.